



Keep Washington Working Work Group Agenda

May 28, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Meeting Notes

Organizer: Tammy Deets, DOC (Organizer)

Attendees: Keep Washington Working Work Group Members: Antonio Ginatta, Breanne Elsey, Julia Gorton, Keelcy Perez Woolley, Kristin Snapp Kershaw, Rich Stolz, Sam Cho, Tim Warden-Hertz
Alejandro Sanchez, Special Assistant to the Governor
Brian Hatfield, GOVERNOR'S SECTOR LEAD, Forest Products & Cannabis, DOC
Marie Davis, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands, DNR
Nicole Melaku, Executive Director, National Partnership for New Americans
Rick Anderson, Policy Advisor, DOC

2021 Legislative Review

Review 2021 legislative bills related to workforce and businesses and contain references to immigrants and/or underrepresented populations:

- HB 1168 - The Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Act: *Legislature has authorized DNR and DOC to jointly develop and implement workforce development initiatives; workforce development programs and policies should prioritize historically marginalized, underrepresented, rural, and low-income communities. Who & how should the State be connecting with? How to change the mindset about career opportunities in forestry? Also recognize the lack of diversity in the forestry workforce. \$125 million budget in the upcoming biennium including wild fire fighting and workforce development.*

Q&A

- Types of jobs, wage rates and where to get updated information?
ESD is behind in getting more up-to-date information about forestry jobs. The bill has a component to monitor and track the sector workforce.
 - Jobs are mostly contract workers
 - Jobs are not geographically fixed
 - Some jobs are seasonal
 - Fire-fighters group estimates 42K direct workforce in WA with indirect workforce at slightly over 100K.
 - DNR welcomes KWW members or their contacts to help build a stronger workforce development program.
 - HB 1170 - Washington BEST Manufacturing Act:
Legislature has charged DOC to build and reinforce the state's manufacturing and R&D centers. The goal is to double the state's manufacturing base; the no. of small businesses, and the no. of women and minority owned businesses within the next 10 years. Specifically, the act seeks:
 - (a) Recommendations for specific actions to develop a manufacturing workforce pipeline and specific manufacturing subsectors that present workforce opportunities or challenges;
 - (b) Identification of dislocated workers;
 - (c) Career-connected learning opportunities;
 - (d) A survey of financial aid;
-



Keep Washington Working Work Group Agenda

May 28, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Meeting Notes

(e) Recommendations on improving the state's competitiveness for manufacturing and research and development job retention and creation.

Special Presentation

If a national legalization program happens, what would be the pathways to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants in the country? Nicole Melaku of the National Partnership for New Americans presented to the group with a brief overview of their work including a readiness network of legal advocacy and service providers to implement supports & prevent fraud.

- *Launching **Ready to Stay** June 21, 2021 (tentative) providing reliable information, connecting community members, provide advocacy, training, & research.*
- *Map out legal service providers with potential clients.*
- *WA State – approximately 240,000 undocumented individuals, 16,000 DACA recipients, 1 in 12 children comes from a household who has an undocumented family member.*
- *Attention to scale & partnerships are necessary to be successful in supporting pathways to citizenships for these individuals.*
- *#1 goal is do no harm*
- *Opportunity for governments/entities that interface with immigrants/refugees such as those in housing assistance, food security, etc... to join as partners or endorsees*
- *Leaning on OneAmerica for policy and advocacy strategy*
- *English proficiency requirement for citizenship is likely to continue and it is on communities that support immigrants to build out language training programs lower-level English speakers can access. It is harder for older populations.*
- *Take lessons learned from DACA implementation.*
- *Citizenship for a Stronger Economy Report data shows naturalization could help in economic recovery.*

Work Group second half 2021 work plan

Members discuss second half 2021 work plan to prepare for the year-end Legislative Report. Work Group has agreed to break into three sub-committee with a lead person guiding the work of each committee. Goal is to organize, research, and write a portion of the legislative report. The full Work Group will meet to debrief each other in September.

Keep Washington Working Work Group Sub-Committees Members List

SMALL BUSINESS	WORKFORCE	LEGALIZATION
Julie Gorton	Antonia Ginatta	Alex Galarza
Keelcy Perez Woodley	Bre Elsey	Antonia Ginatta
Kristin Kershaw	Eric Gonzalez	Paul Benz
Sam Cho (Lead)	Karen Lewis (Lead)	Rich Stolz
	Kristin Kershaw	Tim Warden-Hertz (Lead)
	Paul Benz	Victoria Mena
	Sandra Rodarte	